

Sept/Oct 2014

# Eastern Express

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Serving Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington Counties

## From the Director

by Gail Formanack

I recently read an article in *Library Media Connection* (August/September 2014) that discussed the many jobs school librarians do that most people never realize are part of the job. "Iceberg: The Cold, Hard Facts about School Librarians' Duties" by Mary Ann Bell, Tricia Kuon, and Jarod Lambert. Although the bulk of my career as a librarian has been in schools, I've greatly enjoyed visiting public and academic libraries in my role as director of Eastern Library System and believe there are more similarities than differences. No matter what library you work in, you probably have heard comments such as, "Gee, I wish all I had to do every day was to sit around and read books."



Misconceptions about librarians and libraries are not uncommon. I am constantly amazed at how many people think libraries are becoming obsolete because of the ready access to electronic books and information. However, I would argue that libraries are in greater use than ever because of the added value the librarian brings to the user experience. As you consider the many roles and duties of your job, it can be helpful to group them in categories. The article did a good job of breaking these down into five main categories that seem relevant to any librarian, regardless of library type.

**Teacher** – Librarians are always ready to teach patrons how to use the library and effective search strategies. The teaching may be done individually or in formalized groups. You may even be asked to informally teach other library professionals through a mentoring relationship or by working with a practicum student. To be an effective teacher, one must always be a learner by being an active member of the library community and being involved in professional learning and reading.

**Librarian** – As administrator of the library or your department within the library, you have countless decisions to make regarding collection development and organizing the resources as well as providing reader's advisory. To run an effective library, you will likely need to collaborate with colleagues and school or city administrators.

**Technology specialist** – Librarians purchase new technologies, teach patrons how to use them, and troubleshoot and maintain a variety of devices from computers and printers to e-readers. This is vital to patrons who may even have their own devices but don't know how to use them.

**Administrative/Secretarial** – Common tasks in this category include organizing volunteers, planning and coordinating events, running reports from the automated system, shelving materials, answering the phone, e-mailing, compiling statistical reports, and the list goes on.

**Other duties** – These tasks can run the gamut from counselor to webmaster to janitor to marketing your library.

The bottom line is your value to your institution or community is not just as the "keeper of the books and resources." Your real value is based upon developing relationships with your users that will impact their learning and help them make connections with others. The regard your users have for the service you provide is what will keep libraries in business in the future.

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### ELS Board of Directors

(2013-2014)

Rose Barcal

Francine Canfield

Laura England-Biggs

Nora Hillyer

Marcia Jussel

Lowen Kruse

Tammy Lorenz

David Privett

Anneka Ramirez

Gayle Roberts

Rosa Schmidt

Sarah Swain



**Sept 19th** - Workshop: Supporting Bereaved Library Patrons, 9:30 – 11:30 am, Centering Corporation, 7230 Maple Street in Omaha

**Oct 8th-10th** - NLA/NSLA Fall Conference—Marina Inn Hotel & Conference Center, South Sioux City

**Oct 9th** - ELS Special Meeting, 4:30 pm—Marina Inn Hotel & Conference Center, South Sioux City

**Oct 13th** - Columbus Day — Office Closed

**Oct 17th** - ELS Board Meeting, 9:30 am—West Point Public Library

**Oct 24th** - DIRECT Meeting (Public Library Directors), 9:30 am—North Bend Public Library

**Oct 20th to 31st** - Basic Skills Course: Collection Management. Register by Oct 3 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

**Nov 3rd to 14th** - Basic Skills Course: Readers Advisory. Register by Oct 24 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

**Nov 11th** - Veteran's Day — Office Closed

**Nov 14th** - Accreditation & Strategic Planning for Public Libraries - 9:30am - Location TBA

**Nov 21** - Summer Reading Program Workshop/ Presenters Fair, 9:00 – 2:00 - La Vista Public Library,

**Nov 27th-28th** - Thanksgiving — Office Closed

**Dec 1st to 12th** - Basic Skills Course: Library Finance. Register by Nov 21 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

**Dec 12th** - ELS Board Meeting, 9:30 am—ELS Offices

**Dec 25th** - Christmas — Office Closed

**January 1st** - Three Rivers Library System will take care of you!

**Jan 5th to 16th** - Basic Skills Course: Customer Service. Register by Dec 23 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

**Jan 26th to Feb 6th** - Basic Skills Course: Communication. Register by Jan 16 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

**Feb 23rd to Mar 6th** - Basic Skills Course: Reference. Register by Aug 29 at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>

## Professional Learning Opportunities

Joy Johnson will share strategies and resources in the two hour workshop called **Supporting Bereaved Library Patrons**. It will be held on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Centering Corporation located at 7230 Maple Street in Omaha at 9:30. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> to [gformanack@windstream.net](mailto:gformanack@windstream.net)

The **DIRECT** meeting for public library directors will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the North Bend Public Library. Public library directors from the Northeast Library System have been invited to join in the conversation. These meetings provide a venue for networking and sharing of information. Let Gail Formanack know if you wish to place a topic on the agenda.

### Mark your calendars for the **Summer Reading Program Workshop and Presenters' Fair**

scheduled for Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at the La Vista Public Library. The general theme is Heroes. Children: Every Hero Has a Story; Teens: Unmask! Presenters are being selected. Everyone will be asked to bring an idea to share with the group, so start your planning now!

The **Introduction to eBooks and eReaders** session from the Nebraska Library Commission is being offered for public library staff and volunteers in several locations across the state. Sessions run from 9 am to 4:00 pm as follows:

La Vista: November 6 (registration deadline is 11/4/14)

Lincoln: November 21 (registration deadline is 11/19/14)

Description: eBooks and eReaders are coming into your library even if your library doesn't officially support them. Customers may need your help to fully understand the capabilities of the devices, and may need your broadband connectivity to download educational content or literary works.

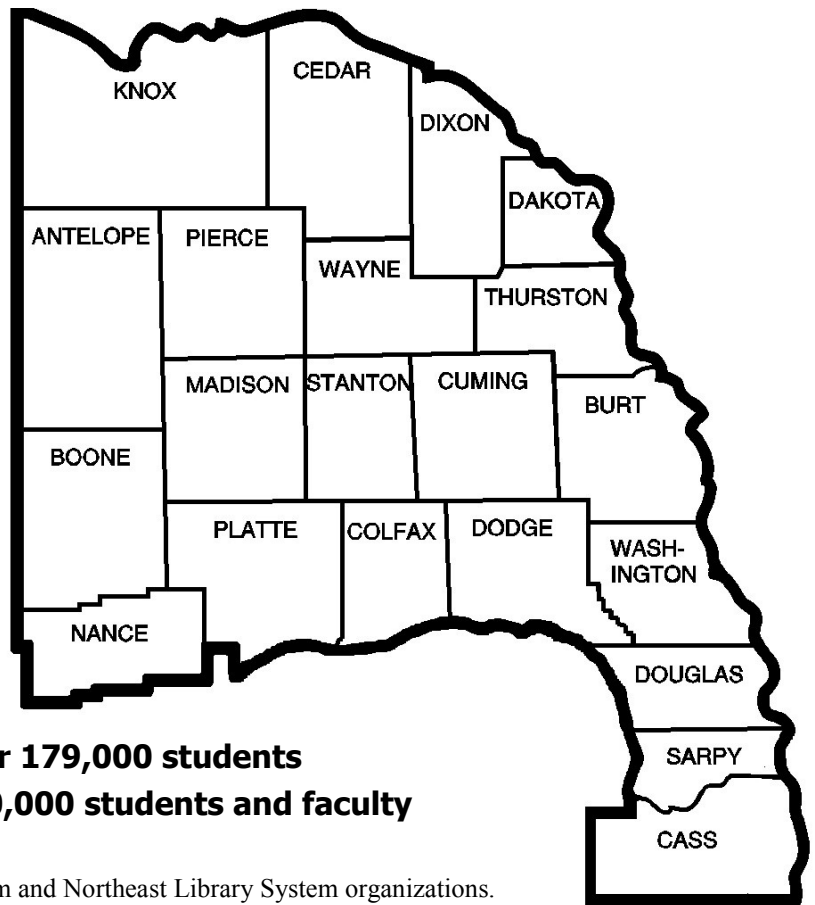
In this full-day workshop, Commission trainers Michael Sauers and Susan Knisely will walk you through the ins and outs of today's eBook technology including hands-on time with a Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch, Amazon Kindle 3, Apple iPad, and Windows 8.1 laptop, along with the OverDrive eBook lending service.

By the end of this day you'll feel more comfortable with a range of eInk and app-based eReading devices and be more confident in your ability to give your patrons the help they need. This class is for public library staff.



## The New Regional System Will Serve:

- **21 Counties in northeast Nebraska**
- **11,200 square miles**
- **855,441 residents**
- **95 public libraries**
- **496,967 public library registered borrowers**
- **56+ special/institutional libraries**
- **421 school media centers serving over 179,000 students**
- **24 academic libraries, serving over 60,000 students and faculty**



Plans are underway to consolidate the Eastern Library System and Northeast Library System organizations.

This is a result of a decision made by the Nebraska Library Commissioners to reduce the current six systems to four following a recommendation by a task force. This action comes as a result of state and federal budget cuts in the past and flat funding in recent years.

A plan of merger has been drawn up and approved by the Eastern Library System board. A transition board has been selected to guide the consolidation process. The members of that board are:

**Kathy Ageton** - Lutheran High Northeast - Norfolk  
**Rose Barcal** - La Vista Public Library  
**Francine Canfield** - Baright Library in Ralston  
**Laura England-Biggs** - Keene Memorial Library in Fremont  
**Beth Foulks** - Ponca Public Library  
**Lauran Lofgren** - Wayne Public Library  
**Aimee Morlan** - Weeping Water Public Library

In a recent meeting, the board selected Three Rivers Library System as its new name. This name must first be registered to ensure it is not in use by another entity.

All member libraries will be notified of the proposed merger and will be invited to attend a special meeting of the Eastern Library System in order to vote on the merger plan. This meeting will take place at the NLA/NSLA annual conference in South Sioux City on Thursday, October 9th. This vote is a formality required by law, but the reality is that funding for Eastern Library System will cease as of December 31, 2014. The Plan of Merger and revised Articles of Incorporation are posted at [www.elsne.org](http://www.elsne.org)

Brian and I will continue to provide service to members of Eastern Library System through the end of this calendar year. Please look for additional information about the transition as the Three Rivers Library System board continues with its decision-making process. Do know that consulting services and continuing education will continue to be available to you from Three Rivers Library System after January 1.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at the office.



# System News

## Omaha Public Library



Wendy Anderson is retiring on November 7<sup>th</sup> from the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch of the Omaha Public Library. She became library director in 1988 and has been leading Elkhorn's library ever since. When Omaha annexed Elkhorn in 2007, Wendy stayed on a manager of the Elkhorn Branch as it became part of the Omaha Public Library System. She has a number of plans for retirement and hopes to squeeze in some volunteering in local libraries. The Elkhorn branch will host her retirement party on Saturday, November 8 from 1-3 pm. The address is 2100 Reading Plaza in Omaha (Elkhorn). She is pictured with author Gail Rock at an event at the Valley Public Library.

Manya Shorr, assistant director of the Omaha Public Library, recently accepted a position in the Washington, D.C Public Libraries. Manya has been active in NLA and the library community and will be missed.

## Valley Public Library

Valley Public Library hosted a quilt show as part of the community's sesquicentennial celebration. They also hosted an author event featuring Valley native Gail Rock who autographed her popular children's books.



## Neihardt Historical Site

Kinley Hadden is the new executive director of the John G. Neihardt Historical Site and library in Bancroft. She previously taught English at the high school and college levels. She succeeds Nancy Gillis, and her work will focus on education and programming related to John Neihardt and his works. Free monthly programs are offered at the museum. The programs start at 2:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

October 12: Author Bruce Hopkins, *Truth in the Rivers*

November 16: Author Karen Shoemaker, *The Meaning of Names*

December 14: Burt County Brass Quintet, Christmas Concert

## Baright Public Library, Ralston

Baright Public Library in Ralston recently received a \$3,000 grant award from eBay Foundation's Omaha GIVE Team. The money has provided for an additional AfterSchool Edge program for kids.



Pictured with the check are Francine Canfield, Dee Huff, and a teen volunteer.

## Creighton University Library

Michael LaCroix was honored on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at a reception upon his retirement from Creighton University's Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library where he had been director for almost 20 years. Best wishes to Michael in his retirement. He also serves as a Nebraska Library Commissioner.







## Midland University Library

Annette Parde-Maass was hired in August as the Librarian for Midland's Luther Library. She was previously at Nebraska Wesleyan University and is a graduate of the University of Missouri Library Science program.



## Wahoo Public Library

Wahoo Public Library returned to its building in late August after extensive repairs were undertaken following a ceiling collapse caused by a frozen pipe in the fire suppression system in early January. Materials were merged from storage and their temporary library location and then shelved by staff and volunteers. The library reopened to the public on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Snyder Public Library

Snyder Public Library hosted its summer reading program in July under the direction of new library director Shelley Nelsen. All who achieved their reading goals were given prizes.



Summer Reading participants at the final celebration in Snyder.

## Marrs Middle School Library

The library at Marrs Middle School (Omaha Public Schools) celebrated the dedication of its new nearly 400 square foot mural in a ceremony held on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

The mural is entitled "The Sower's Votive" and was created by Joe Nicholson.

The subject of the mural is a clash between the two worlds of reality and fantasy and features images of South Omaha as well as abstract figures reminiscent of Salvador Dali.

The artist grew up in South Omaha and is the son of OPS librarian Becky Nicholson. Funding for the project was provided through the generosity of the Sherwood Foundation.

Pictured in front of the mural is librarian Doug Keel.





## Grant Opportunities

### Kreutz-Bennett Fund for Smaller Communities

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for libraries in communities with populations of fewer than 3,000. Each year the Kreutz-Bennett Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, accepts proposals for grants for planning that leads to certification, program enhancements and facilities improvements.

All grants require a certain level of matching funds and evidence that the project has broad community support. Approximately \$70,000 to \$80,000 is available each year. Grant seekers are encouraged to review the guidelines and application procedures at [www.nebcommfound.org/fund/kreutz-bennett](http://www.nebcommfound.org/fund/kreutz-bennett).

For more information, contact Reggi Carlson, NCF communications director, at 402-323-7331 or [rcarlson@nebcommfound.org](mailto:rcarlson@nebcommfound.org).

*The deadline to submit the initial short application form is Oct. 1.*

### NLC Offering Youth Grants for Excellence

The Nebraska Library Commission has made funding available specifically for innovative projects for children and young adults in accredited public libraries and state-run institutional libraries in Nebraska.

The program is designed to encourage creative thinking, risk-taking and new approaches to address problems and needs of children and young adults in your community. Grant awards enable youth librarians to begin needed programs and try projects which they have been unable to undertake. The grants also offer an opportunity to expand youth service capabilities in new and different directions.

It is also expected that the funding will provide a foundation for ongoing rather than one-time services, which can be continued with community support or through a reallocation of library funds.

For more information, visit: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/youth/index.aspx>

*The application deadline is October 1, 2014.*

### Yutan Public Library Wins Target Grant



Yutan Public Library was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Target Corporation to enhance programming for children and families. Congratulations to Angie Watson, library director.

### New ELS Grants for Adult & Youth Services

The Eastern Library System will offer both Adult Services Grants and Youth Services Grants this year to help jumpstart new and innovative programming.

These grants are open to ALL the libraries in the ELS area, not just the public libraries.

The deadline for these grants is November 15 and awards will be made in December. The final amounts of these grants will depend on the budget situation as we near the end of the current ELS budget and the transition to the merged system.

See pages 9 and 10 for the application forms for these grants.



## New Nebraska Library Commission Staff Member

Sam Shaw joined the staff of the Nebraska Library Commission following the retirement of John Felton in the Planning and Data Services Coordinator position. He comes from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services; as Library Coordinator, he oversaw all functions of facility law and recreational libraries including collection development, database access, cataloging, reference services, and interlibrary loans. His work included surveying and statistical tracking to meet user needs. Prior to that, he worked as a librarian at the Nebraska Supreme Court, providing reference services to law professionals and conducting research work as directed by the Court.

Sam received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Nebraska Wesleyan University and his master's degree in information science from the University of Missouri, and he is currently the president of the Nebraska Association of Institutional Librarians. He also serves on the State Advisory Council on Libraries.



## New Library for Yutan

Yutan Public Library moved into their new facility in late spring and hosted an open house on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> with Jeff Barnes as the featured speaker.



Public Library Directors met in August at the John Stahl Library in West Point.



## Twentieth Year for Youth Services Retreat

Over fifty people participated in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual SELS/ELS sponsored Youth Services Retreat held September 4-5 at Carol Joy Holling Center near Ashland.

Participants particularly enjoyed the session led by Michael Fitzsimmons from Dancing Man Music. They all made drums and learned how to incorporate rhythm into activities they plan with children.

Thanks to the many ELS librarians who shared their ideas as presenters and panelists.



## Eastern Library Board Meeting Minutes

Aug 8, 2014 at Midland University – Called to Order at 9:40AM

Attendees: Francine Canfield, Gayle Roberts, Scott Berryman, Marcia Jussel, Rosa Schmidt, Laura England-Biggs, Anneka Ramirez, Mary Jo Mack. Guests: Rod Wagner, Michael LaCroix, Barbara Coke. ELS Staff: Gail Formanack, Brian Maass

Guests: Rod Wagner distributed NLC report. They are currently working on biennial budget request.

Minutes from May 23 were approved.

Treasurer's report for June and July distributed.

**Correspondence:** Thank you note for having program for school librarians at annual meeting; NLC letter granting \$1000 for legal costs due to systems merger.

Executive Director's report distributed.

### Old Business

Anneka Ramirez conducted a spot check on the financial records.

Continuing Education through December: Youth Services Retreat, Summer Reading Program, Helping Grieving Patrons

Discussion of Reorganization

Scott Francine and Gail met with Northeast representatives

Decided on a 7 member board serving for 18 months

ELS members will have to have written notice and a special meeting to vote on merger.

Meeting will be scheduled at Annual Conference in S. Sioux in October.

Gail reviewed lawyer's suggestions and comments

Documents will be reviewed in New Business

### New Business

Budget of \$67,866.42 for July through December 2014 was approved. Motion: Laura, Second: Gayle

Motion to elect Rose Barcal, Francine Canfield and Laura England-Biggs to the Board of the new merged system representing the former ELS. Motion: Mary Jo, Second: Anneka. Motion Passed.

Plan of Merger: Reviewed document. Marcia moved for board acceptance of the plan. Scott Seconded. Motion Passed. Plan will be forwarded to a special meeting of the members in October for their vote.

Articles of Incorporation: Reviewed document. Suggested changes which will be typed up and forwarded to the new joint Eastern/Northeast Board. Gail will ask the lawyer about having no members or having the board of directors be the members. Northeast System members will have to vote on this document, as it is an Amendment to their Articles of Incorporation.

Draft Bylaws: Reviewed document. Suggested changes which will be typed up and forwarded to the new joint Eastern/Northeast Board.

Other: Discussed having handouts, webinar, and/or YouTube videos explaining the merger process to the members and stating exactly what they will be voting on. Discussed having a lawyer present at the membership meeting to answer questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

Submitted by Brian Maass, ELS Assistant Director, secretary pro tem



## Eastern Library System 2014 Adult Services Grant

Eastern Library System is offering a limited amount of grant funds for projects and/or services that will benefit adult library patrons. These grants are open to all ELS member libraries that provide services for adults.

Description: Grant funds are to be an addition to the current budget and are intended to jump start a new and innovative program or service. Grant awards will not exceed \$500.

Instructions: Complete the following form and submit electronically by November 15, 2014 to [bmaass@windstream.net](mailto:bmaass@windstream.net). Applications will be reviewed by the Eastern Library System board.

Library Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If awarded, check should be made payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate page(s), briefly describe the project using the outline below. Label each section title as indicated below.

A. Project Title

B. Project Description (must address each of the following):

1. Identify need
2. Goals and/or objectives as tied to library's strategic plan
3. Implementation plan
4. Evaluation plan

C. Budget plan including total cost

D. Benefit to adult customers in terms of results and outcomes related to the goals.

E. Start and completion dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Eastern Library System 2014 Children/Young Adult Services Grant

Eastern Library System is offering a limited amount of grant funds for projects and/or services that will benefit children and young adults. These grants are open to all ELS member libraries that provide services for children and/or young adults. (Schools must have district approval before submitting an application).

Description: Grant funds are to be an addition to the current budget and are intended to jump start a new and innovative program or service. Grant awards will not exceed \$500.

Instructions: Complete the following form and submit electronically by November 15, 2014 to [bmaass@windstream.net](mailto:bmaass@windstream.net). Faxes will not be accepted. Applications will be reviewed by the Eastern Library System board.

Library Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If awarded, check should be made payable to: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate page(s), briefly describe the project using the outline below. Label each section title as indicated below.

A. Project Title

B. Project Description (must address each of the following):

1. Identify need
2. Goals and/or objectives
4. Implementation plan
4. Evaluation plan

C. Budget plan including total cost

D. Benefit to children in terms of results and outcomes related to the goals.

E. Start and completion dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grant Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If school, administrative approval: \_\_\_\_\_